LAST MONUMENT MYTHOS & NIXONVERSE DISCORD Q&A

WITH LEV AND ALEX CASANAS – 09/11/2022

Have you voiced other historical figures that didn't appear in the Monument Mythos?

I do Henry Kissinger impressions, you've heard him before in another Q&A, and I've also did Alfred Hitchcock, which is much harder to do.

Does Nixon miss Dean?

Yeah, I think he does. Alex and I talked about. I think he misses Dean and regrets it, if it even is Nixon and not something posing as Nixon, but I think whatever it is still has elements of his personality and feelings.

Did you record other lines for MM that didn't make into the videos?

Yes, loads, you probably only heard about 50% of my lines. There's loads of bits and pieces that were recorded and not used.

Can you give us information about your new series?

It is called Minkowski Spacetime, and it is inspired by the mathematical concepts developed by Hermann Minkowski. In fact, Minkowski is the one who came up with the word "space-time" in the first place. It will be a series of single one-off videos; they'll be called "Events". Episodes will basically be one-off events from the past, present and future, and presented in completely different genres and styles.

They'll be animated, live-action, horror, comedy, and so we're trying to collaborate with as many creators as possible and give them as much freedom to do their own thing as possible.

If you could make a new Monument Mythos episode, what would you do?

I had an idea, actually. It was pitched as a British Diplomat sent to America after a scandal, and he saw it as a demotion and he was grumpy about it, hating that he would have to work in America. And after he came back we would see a very cheery person who met Dean and toured across Washington and loved his work in the US. So there would be a sinister implication going on there.

MISTER MANTICORE JOINS

How did you first meet Alex or Mister Manticore?

I talked about this before auditioned to a voice forum to play Dean and Nixon and that's how I met Alex, I got both roles.

During Maizemoviemaker, you see Maya walking towards the cave, and she looks at a map, which I assume is the map of the cave, but its blurred and that has been bothering me ever since because it's never brought up again, so what is that? (Question for Alex)

Your best bet would be to talk to Eliana, she was the actress at that scene. My best answer would be that it is a diagram of a limb of the Horned Serpent, the extension that is lurking underground, the same extension that you see at the end of the video. A diagram for some kind of access point to it.

Favorite Mythos or Nixonverse character?

It's got to be Virginia. I can't praise Eliana's performance as Virginia enough. Her performance as Virginia destroyed me. I very rarely cry in my real life, I'm quite cynical, so I don't get emotional often. Very few things have moved me to tears in recent years, but Eliana's performance as Virginia really did it for me. I cried for 20 minutes in that video. Eliana is twice the actor I will ever be. So yes, Virginia is without a doubt, 100% my favorite character in the series.

What interests you about Mister Manticore's works, is it how concise they are or is it something else?

Some of you may not know, but I have two degrees, and one of them is American Culture. I study the turn of the millennium stuff, the culture of Jazz Music and other uniquely American culture from the 20th century. And Analog Horror is a specifically American genre, and it is entirely artistic, it comes from the people and not from any corporation. This is the golden age of Analog Horror, whether you believe it or not. So many new and young people coming in to make stuff that they are passionate, who are making unique and individual works from their heart no matter how inexperienced they are. I love Analog Horror and I will fight for it.

Why do you specifically choose history as your medium? (Question for Alex and Lev)

(Alex) I really like history, I think that's pretty evident, and I had never seen Alternate History done as Analog Horror. Well, I wasn't even aware of Analog

Horror until a few episodes in. I think really I just wanted to try my swing into Alternate History, and by the time I made AIRFORCEONEANGEL and DEANDEMOCRACY I realized that the only way to keep the narrative believable was to establish it as an alternate world. If I kept trying to masquerade as a person in our world uncovering hidden videos nobody would believe me.

In another Q&A someone asked me what my favorite Alternate History was and I blanked out, but now I can say that some of my favorite Alternate Histories are very loosely Alternate Histories. Retroactively, some of my favorite Alternate Histories are the first Terminator Films and Watchmen. I also love a space show called "For All Mankind", "War of the Worlds" is also Alternate History, and also "The Time Machine" by H.G. Wells.

(Alex doesn't want to influence Lev's work in his own series. He wants to let Lev's vision flow freely on its own.)

Favorite Monument Mythos Video?

(Lev) It's gotta be the SUEZCANALCRAB, it's next level brilliance. I laughed so hard watching that video, I absolutely love that video.

(Alex) I love The Ed-Dwight Paradox, I feel it was the total culmination of everything I produced for the last five years. I feel it was a really enjoyable video to make.

Favorite Analog Horror Series outside of The Monument Mythos?

(Lev) I love Alex Kister's work, I'm not sure if you're going to agree with me, but there's something about that kid. I also love Kane Pixel's The Backroom's, it's so straightforward and done so well. I also love Remy Abode's work too.

(Alex) I'm not going to give a favorite because I don't want to make anyone unhappy, as a creator it stings when someone lists their favorite and your series isn't there. So I don't want to offend anyone, I love a lot of series but I won't list a favorite.

What software do you use to make videos?

(Alex) I went through a couple things. Mister Manticore was entirely made on Windows Movie Maker. Most of The Monument Mythos was made up on Adobe Premiere up until STARRYSPHINX and from then on, I used HitFilm Express. And for The Nixonverse I used almost exclusively HitFilm.

How did you make the scene at the end of D-DAY KNIGHTFALL? (The scene where The D-Day Knight turns into Alcatraz Matter)

The only person who knows is Eliana, because she was there with me and helped me tremendously, but it was actually practical effect.

Were there more plans for the Church Of The Ever Given or was it just a one-off kind of thing?

It's a funny question because I just intended it to be a punchline to a 12-minute joke. But my brother, who always tells me that my work is garbage when I first make it, and I ignore it because some months will pass and he'll come back and says he loves it. And my brother now never lets go of the Church of the Ever Given, he thinks there's so much potential there.

But also, if you look at the video, the Church of the Ever Given was only comprised of a select group of Cairo Survivors, it only would have a couple hundred members at best. I like to tackle ideas that really affect everybody.

Question For Alex: Regarding the mysterious “Her”, could she very well be the personification of fate itself and the embodiment of love and kindness, considering all the other implications regarding it and how it could be found in anyone from what was gathered from the last Q&A (i.e. The Son’s backstory and the way the stars were positioned, Lunarian speech).

Uhm. Sure.

Well, all right. I think the "Her" mentioned in the section illustrated by Shiro, all questions should be forward to her immediately. But the "Her" mentioned in Queen of the Lunarians is something that is in all of her. I think, superficially, you could call it "Mother Nature", but not just the greenery, but the universe itself. The universe that is in each of us. Reality is what you make yourself, what you believe and what you hold in your head. Which is an idea that I also touched on in House in the Ocean. And once you die your universe ends with you. So, since The Nixonverse is really, to me, a celebration of life, of storytelling, of our own unique selves, of “Headcanon”, I think that “Her” embodies those ideas as well.

What do you think of making what if scenarios and alternate stories about your own characters?

Well, I'm already intimidated by The Nixonverse Retold, they're planning a whole pantheon of superheroes there. But yes I am always honored when people take my work and create new stories from them.

So, when they are trying to get Chase to come back, they mention the promise of putting her into a human body, how would that have worked?

Well, I never went into it, because it was just a false promise by the US Government and the Hollywood Studio, but it tied nicely into other stories I was working on at the time, such as in The Crescent King, he wears a human body to blend in into mundane society.

Who was the person with the bleeding eyes that we saw in the beginning of The D-Day Knight Returns?

There is this fascinating book about lobotomies that I read and in it, there was this one particular story that struck me, talking about how in one medical hospital many lobotomies would be botched and render the patients blind after the operation, and so to avoid further complications their eyes had to be removed after the lobotomy. And that struck me as specially terrifying.

What does each ADA even do? Like, what do they even do on a day to day basis and how do they go about their plans?

The ADA is like any other domestic terrorist far-far right organization in the US. They act irrationally, based on emotion, and they are just people who just want to be loud and want to be heard.

There is this hilarious skit where Obama is in a meeting with Republican Legislators and he's giving his policy suggestions and no matter what he says, they say no. So he starts suggesting things on the Republican agenda, and they still struggle and end up saying no on instinct, because they're like children, they just want to disagree.

So yeah, the ADA is kind of like a contrarian middle school club. They are certainly a comedic group.

Whatever happened to Dean after his presidency?

I only ever focused on Dean in his presidency, never after that. I only focused on those 8 years. Because when it comes to your post-presidency life, nobody really care about you anymore and you tend to just try to live a more relaxing life away from the public. I just imagine that those 8 years would have completely exhausted Dean, so he wouldn't really want to be involved in politics anymore after that. I only wanted to show Dean in his prime, in the height of his power and his charisma, similar to our world, we only remember Dean in the height of his stardom because he was tragically taken from us.

How much information is too much, how much should be left to the audience?

Well, in my last Q&A I talked about how I'm a huge supporter of Headcanon. I love it when people come up with their own theories and their own pieces of the puzzle because it leads to wonderful discussion. But to have Headcanon, you need a lot of implication. Not exactly statements of fact, or technically information, but you need to have the idea in your head and you need to express it in a concise manner.

For example, write your idea in one sentence, but then write a build-up preceding sentence and a concluding sentence after the fact. Now, if the first and the third sentence are both evocative enough that they can still convey the idea of the second sentence even if you can remove the second sentence, then you should remove it.

Write everything down first, and then whenever you can preserve the ideas while still removing the direct factual statements, then you should remove it. Let it live in the background radiation, you will create a very fertile ground for Headcanon and speculation.

For one last question, I am wondering about something that is shown at the very end of The Ed Dwight Paradox which has been on my mind since that episode came out. I suppose it's only fitting that the last question is about the end of the last video.

So, at the end of that video, after the world has been fictionalized and we get the Eliana's narration, we see an illustration done by Magic depicting James Dean, or a man who appears to be James Dean, painting while thinking about three Ed Dwights standing on the moon. Can you tell us what this is about?

The illustration at the end of The Ed Dwight Paradox is perhaps the biggest revelation of whole series, even if nothing is even said out loud, because it shows us what Fictionalization truly means. And only Eliana, Magic, and the creators of the Nixonverse Comic truly understand the full extent of this image. It shows that when the world is fictionalized, it then belongs to a new mantle who will tell and pass own its story in a new way.